CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A composition comprising isolated SVII virus.

2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said isolated SVII virus comprises a polynucleotide sequence shown in FIG. 1.

3. An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of;

an isolated polynucleotide selectively hybridizable with a nucleotide sequence shown in FIG. 1, SEQ ID #

a complement of an isolated polynucleotide selectively hybridizable with a nucleotide sequence shown in FIG. 1,

an isolated polynucleotide encoding a SVII protein or fragment of a SVII protein, and

a complement of an isolated polynucleotide encoding a SVII protein or a fragment of a SVII protein.

4. The isolated polynucleotide of claim 3, wherein said isolated polynucleotide is an antisense polynucleotide.

5. A composition comprising:

an isolated SVII protein or fragment thereof.

6. A vaccine composition comprising:

an isolated SVII protein or fragment thereof; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

7. The vaccine composition of claim 6, further comprising an adjuvant.

8. An expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide encoding a SVII protein or a fragment of a SVII protein.

9. An expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide, wherein transcription of said isolated polynucleotide results in the production of an SVII antisense polynucleotide.

10. An isolated polyclonal antisera that specifically binds to a SVII virus or a protein thereof.

11. A monoclonal antibody which binds to a SVII virus or a protein thereof.

12. A method for detecting SVII virus, comprising:

contacting a sample with an antibody which specifically binds to SVII virus or a protein thereof; and

detecting complexes of said antibody and SVII virus or protein thereof.

13. A method for detecting SVII virus, comprising:

contacting a sample with a probe polynucleotide which selectively hybridizes to a SVII polynucleotide; and

detecting hybridization of said probe with a SVII polynucleotide.